



SENATOR RUNNER'S WEEK IN REVIEW

A WEEKLY REVIEW THAT WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED AND UP-TO-DATE



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Global Warming Solution: The Medicine Will Hurt More Than the Illness

A magazine news article warned of the impending doom climate change would inflict: "There are ominous signs that the earth's weather patterns have begun to change dramatically and that these changes may portend a drastic decline in food production, with serious political implications for every nation on earth. The drop in food output could begin quite soon, perhaps only ten years from now...the evidence in support of these predictions has now begun to accumulate so massively that meteorologists are hard-pressed to keep up with it."

You might be surprised that this gloomy scenario refers to global *cooling*, and comes from a 1975 *Newsweek* cover story that helped give rise to congressional hearings warning of an impending Ice Age that would result in worldwide famine and poverty.

A mere three decades later climate change is back in the news, and we hear similar predictions of devastation and calamity, yet now the culprit has become global *warming*. In fact, many of the same alarmists who once advocated global cooling now suddenly embrace the theory of man-induced catastrophic global warming.

And there is no doubt that media hysteria is fueling this global warming debate. However, when formulating public policy it's best to rely on objective science rather than the latest Hollywood movie.

It is generally accepted that the earth is in a warming trend. However, we are led to believe that the cause is human behavior that it's our businesses, our cars, and our power plants inducing the change, and that immediate action is necessary to save our planet.

On this point, over 17,000 national and international scientists have signed a petition to demonstrate the lack of scientific consensus on the theory of man-induced catastrophic global warming. The petition reads, in part, that "there is no convincing scientific evidence that human release of greenhouse gases is causing catastrophic heating of the Earth's atmosphere and disruption of the Earth's climate."

News of the Week

[Sweeping Legislation Approved as Lawmakers Conclude Session](#)

[Back-pay for Teachers Arrested for Drugs Kept Alive by Unions](#)

[Global Warming Plan Will Be Costly](#)

[Veto is Likely for Universal Health Care Bill](#)

[NASA to Reveal Vehicle Builder](#)

[Legislature Approves Sexual Orientation Measure](#)

[Senate Approved Scaled Version of Governor's Prison Reform Plan, Assembly Does Not Act On It](#)

[Legislature Approves Measure to Require Hands-Free Use of Cell Phones](#)

In addition, the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics recently completed a study that indicated a review of more than 200 climate studies determined that the 20th century is neither the warmest century nor the century with the most extreme weather of the past 1000 years.

It must also be noted that our planet is subject to natural, periodic shifts in climate. Just in the last century we have seen three distinct periods of atmospheric climate change: warming in the early 1900's, cooling in the mid 1900's and warming toward the end of the century.

This hasn't deterred the environmental extremists in Sacramento, however, who have blindly accepted the global warming theory as fact, and put forth a package of legislation to ostensibly solve the problem.

The most far-reaching is Assembly Bill 32, grandly titled the "Global Warming Solution Act." It imposes mandatory caps on carbon emissions in California, and gives the Air Resources Board carte blanche authority to monitor and enforce emission levels.

AB 32 would impose massive costs and burdens on California businesses and devastate our state's competitiveness. The cement manufacturing industry, for example, is poised to experience a surge in production with the Legislature's recent focus on infrastructure. A hard emissions cap will force these businesses to shift their production to neighboring states, most of which are not as energy-efficient as California. When we consider the additional emissions generated to import the product, the net effect will be *harmful* to the environment.

In fact, a recent report from Governor Schwarzenegger's Climate Action Team also warns of this unintended consequence of California's "go it alone" approach, stating that "emissions may decline in the state, only to increase in neighboring states." Not surprisingly, the bill's proponents have yet to acknowledge or address this glaring problem.

The proposal would also cripple California's energy market and drive gas and electricity prices even higher. Because electricity generation represents about 40 percent of the state's carbon emissions, it would be forced to incur a significant portion of the cuts. The state is already struggling to keep pace with a growing energy demand, and this takes us down the road to another energy crisis.

Unfortunately the result of such legislation that is not based on science will leave us with a potential energy crisis, higher taxes, and more businesses and jobs leaving California. And what would we get in return? Very little, if any change to the environment. This is the wrong proposal for California.

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